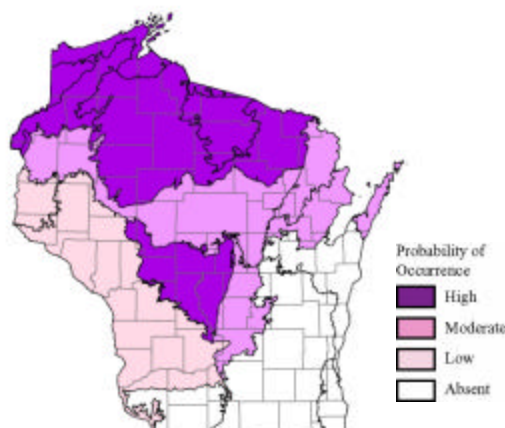


Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	4
State threats:	3
State population trend:	1
Global abundance:	4
Global distribution:	3
Global threats:	2
Global population trend:	2
Mean Risk Score:	2.7
Area of importance:	3

* Please see the [Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries \(Section 3.1.1\)](#) for definitions of criteria and scores.



Ecological Landscape Associations

Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Central Sand Plains	Alder thicket
Central Sand Plains	Central sands pine-oak forest
Central Sand Plains	Northern wet forest
North Central Forest	Alder thicket
North Central Forest	Northern mesic forest
North Central Forest	Northern wet forest
North Central Forest	Northern wet-mesic forest
Northern Highland	Northern dry-mesic forest
Northern Highland	Northern wet forest
Northwest Lowlands	Northern wet forest
Northwest Sands	Northern dry-mesic forest
Northwest Sands	Northern wet forest
Superior Coastal Plain	Boreal forest

Threats and Issues

- Human-caused mortality from illegal shooting, trapping, and vehicle collisions may be major limiting factors in portions of the wolf's range.
- Mortality from a variety of diseases including canine parvovirus, infectious canine hepatitis, canine distemper virus, heartworm, and Blastomycosis are important mortality factors that may limit the wolf population.
- Sarcoptic mange is an important health concern and cause of mortality in Wisconsin wolf populations, along with other parasites including protozoans, intestinal worms, ticks, mites, lice, and heartworm.
- Spread of Chronic Wasting Disease in deer and elk could reduce future numbers of these prey species, or may require local reductions of these cervids which would affect abundance of wolves.

- Habitat fragmentation and human development could negatively affect wolf population trends in Wisconsin, and reduce area of suitable habitat which may reduce the potential carrying capacity of wolves in the future.
- Road densities reflecting motorized access and the level of human-use on such access are key factors in establishing and maintaining wolf populations.
- Future human developments of highway, residential, commercial, and industrial areas may reduce wolves' ability to disperse across the landscape and could cause isolation of portions of the wolf population, leading to genetic and stochastic population problems.
- Interbreeding of wolf/dog hybrids and wild wolves may dilute the gene pool with the instincts and behaviors of domestic dogs, potentially reducing long term viability and increasing rates of livestock depredation.
- Agricultural expansion of livestock and hobby farms into forest areas of central and northern Wisconsin may increase conflicts with wolves and humans, and creates needs for more intense lethal controls on wolves.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Wolf habitat maintenance is needed in northern and central Wisconsin management areas on suitable lands (especially county forests, national forests, and private industrial forests) through management of public motorized access, protection of den and rendezvous sites, and forest management to support adequate prey populations.
- Protection of suitable forested habitat linkages and corridors for wolf dispersal to and from Minnesota and Michigan, as well as within Wisconsin is needed to maintain genetic diversity in wolf populations.
- Support of zoning and Smart Growth efforts are needed in forested areas to maintain forest cover and reduce developments detrimental to wolves and other forest wildlife.
- Accurate population counts via radio collaring along with snow tracking and summer howling surveys are needed to determine if wolves are attaining management goals in Wisconsin.
- Health monitoring is needed to continue to assess the health of the population, including impacts on the population from disease, parasites, and other important sources of mortality.
- Aggressive control needs to be maintained on ungulate diseases such as CWD or TB that could devastate deer and elk populations, and cause major reductions in wolf numbers, or cause drastic increase in livestock depredation by wolves.
- Continuing public education about wolves is needed to promote a greater acceptance of wolves and reduce unfounded fears and myths. Specific information is needed on ways to live with wolves, needs for wolf control activity, and a better understanding of the role of wolves in forest ecosystems.
- Possession of wolf/dog hybrids needs to be regulated due to their potential negative impact on wild, free ranging wolves.
- Research is needed to more effectively manage wolf populations in Wisconsin, including developing reliable and economical wolf census techniques to accurately document numbers and distribution, identifying wolf travel corridors, identifying factors causing low pup survival, and identifying factors apparently limiting wolf colonization in northeastern Wisconsin
- Re-measurement of public attitudes towards wolves and recovery in the state is needed to define reasonable wolf population goals and acceptable wolf habitat.
- Models are needed that 1) predict potential den and rendezvous sites within suitable wolf habitat so these sensitive areas can be protected from human disturbance, 2) estimate the state wolf population

using existing survey and population data and identify needs for additional surveys, and 3) further examine the viability of the state wolf population.

- Long-term research on wolf ecology, population growth, and depredation concerns in central Wisconsin is needed.
- Develop a proactive program to minimize wolf/livestock conflicts. Human acceptance of wolves is essential to maintenance of the species on the landscape, which relies upon some level of livestock owner tolerance.
- In the context of ensuring public acceptance, lethal control of wolves to minimize depredation losses could be considered a legitimate conservation action.